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RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1770
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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

FOR EEB TPP/MTAA/ABT (RYAN) AND NEA/ELA (GREGONIS)
STATE PASS USTR (DOHERTY AND FRANCESKI)
USDA FOR OSTA (HAMILTON AND BEAN)
USDA PASS TO APHIS
CAIRO FOR KURZ
CAIRO FOR EJONES

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD ECON JO

SUBJECT: JORDAN TO LIFT TRADE BAN ON PORK

REF: A) AMMAN 1399, B) AMMAN 1058, C) STATE 44615,
D) STATE 44254

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(SBU) Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Assistant Secretary General for Animal Welfare Nasir Hawamdeh informed EconCouns and Agriculture Specialist on June 24 that the trade ban imposed in early May upon the global outbreak of the H1N1 flu would be rescinded "in a matter of days." Hawamdeh explained that the ban decision was taken as a precaution and in direct response to public pressure and fears when the press was still referring to the virus as the "swine flu." After thoroughly reviewing World Animal Health Organization guidance, however, MOA concluded pork products did not transmit the virus and took steps to lift the ban, "a little late," Hawamdeh admitted, but "following scientific standards."

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